





Wilderness

Wilderness Study Areas

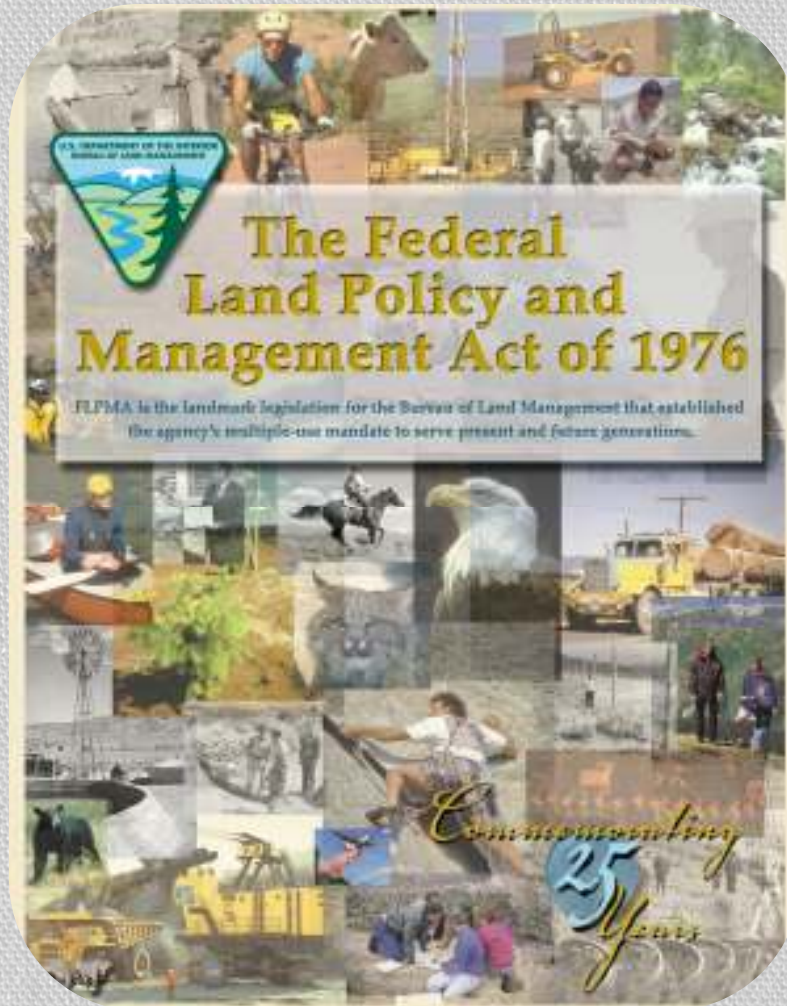
Lands with Wilderness Characteristics

What are they and
where they come from

WILDERNESS TOPICS



1976



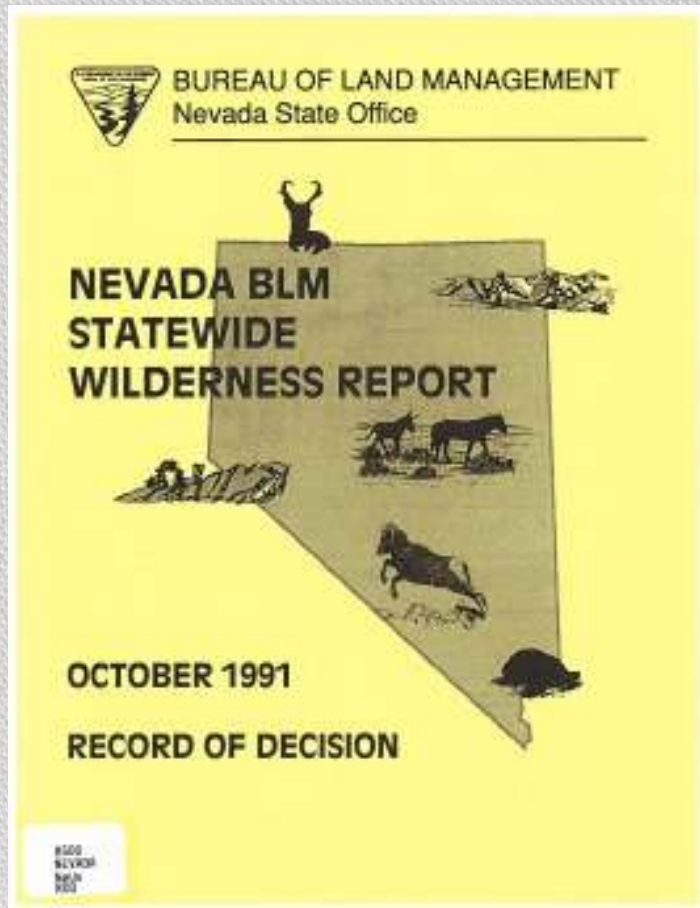
Section 201 – Inventory and Identification

Prepare and maintain on a continuing basis an inventory of all public lands and their resources.

Section 603 – Wilderness Study Areas

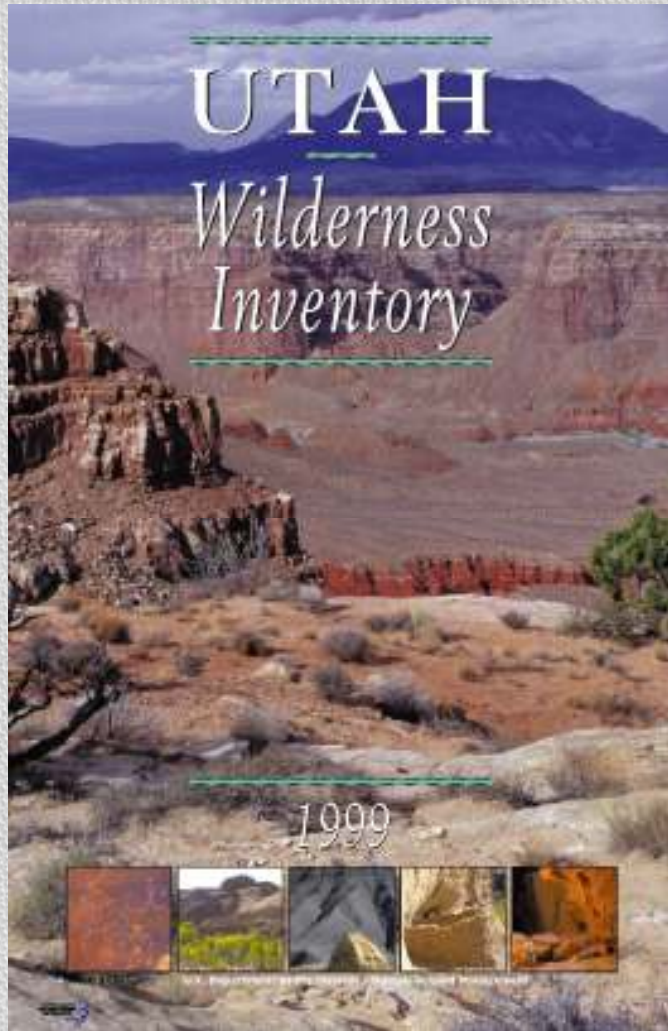
Complete inventory of lands as directed under section 201 as having wilderness characteristics as described in the Wilderness Act of 1964.

1991-1993



- ✓ BLM Statewide Wilderness Report to Congress
 - BLM recommendations for WSAs to be designated as wilderness
- ✓ Statewide Wilderness Reports sent to the Secretary of Interior
 - Secretary of Interior presented the report to the President
 - President recommends WSAs to be designated as wilderness to Congress

1996-1999



- ❖ Utah Wilderness Inventory
Under direction from Interior Secretary Babbitt – BLM Utah conducts inventory for wilderness characteristics
- ❖ BLM begins to write state wide EIS to designate lands found to possess wilderness characteristics as WSAs under section 202 of FLPMA

2003



- Litigation: **Utah v Secretary Babbitt**, 137 F.3d 1193, 1200 – 10th circuit court
 - Settlement – determined that BLM authority to designate WSAs under section 202 of FLPMA had expired no later than 1993.
 - Settlement – concluded that this did not diminish the Secretary's authority under FLPMA to continue to inventory public lands for resources including wilderness characteristics, or take action to prevent undue or unnecessary degradation of public lands (Section 302b)

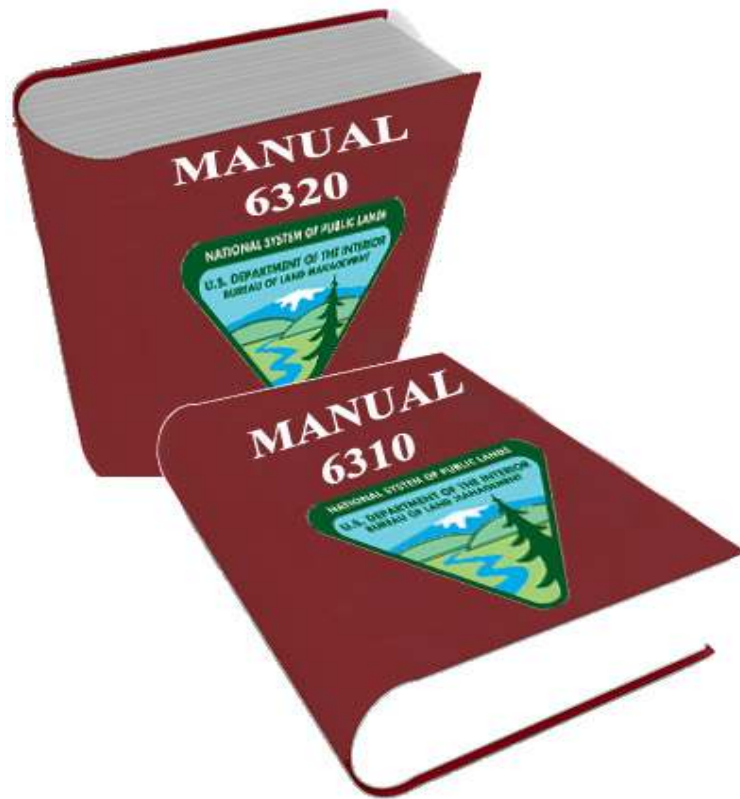
2004 - 2010



BLM is undecided in the direction regarding management of lands with wilderness characteristics.

- Interim Direction: Review for wilderness character in NEPA projects and documents; EA's and EIS's.
- Inventory and analysis in RMP revisions vary state by state until 2009 when the 9th Circuit Court clarifies NEPA requirement to inventory and manage WC in LUP.

BLM Manuals regarding lands with wilderness characteristics



Released in 2012

Manual 6310

Conducting Wilderness
Characteristics Inventory

Manual 6320

Considering lands with
wilderness characteristics in
the Land Use Planning
Process

BLM Manual 6310

Conducting Wilderness Characteristics Inventory on BLM Lands



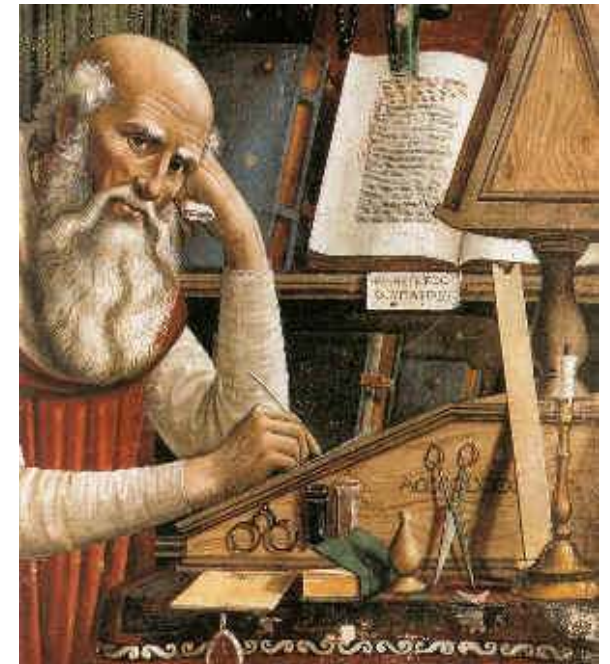
ID Team



Review of Previous wilderness inventory records



Site specific field review



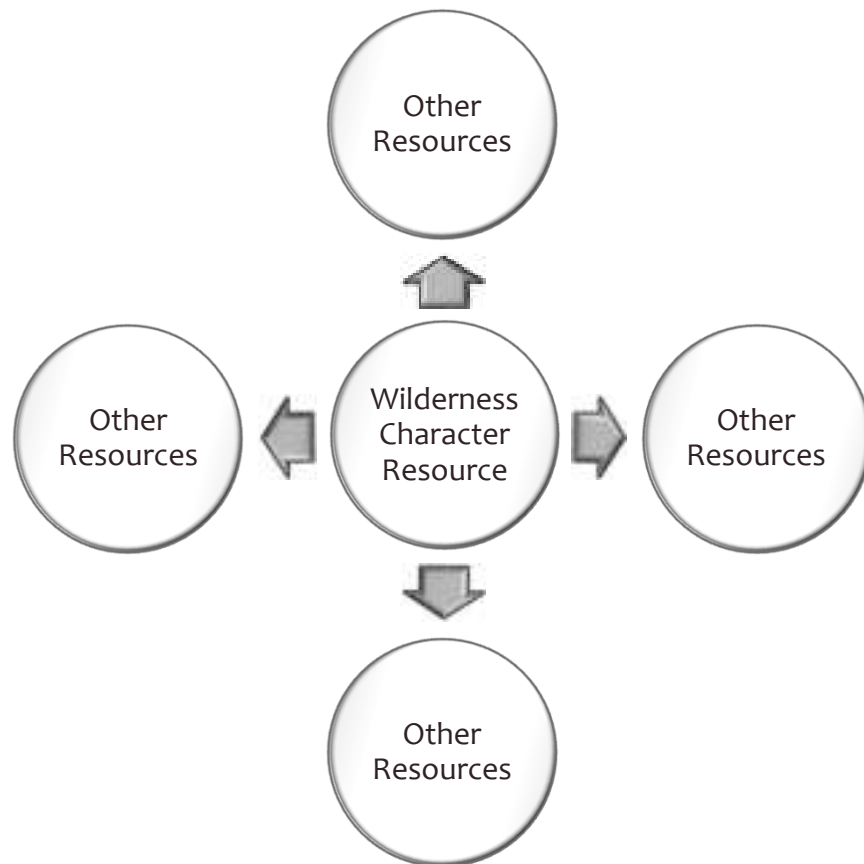
BLM Updates inventory findings

BLM Manual 6320

Considering Wilderness Characteristics in the Land Use Planning Process

When lands with wilderness characteristics are present, the BLM will examine options for managing these lands and determine the most appropriate land use allocations for them.

- Emphasizing other multiple uses as a priority over protecting wilderness characteristics.
- Emphasizing other multiple uses while applying management restrictions to reduce impacts.
- Emphasizing protection of wilderness characteristics over other multiple uses.



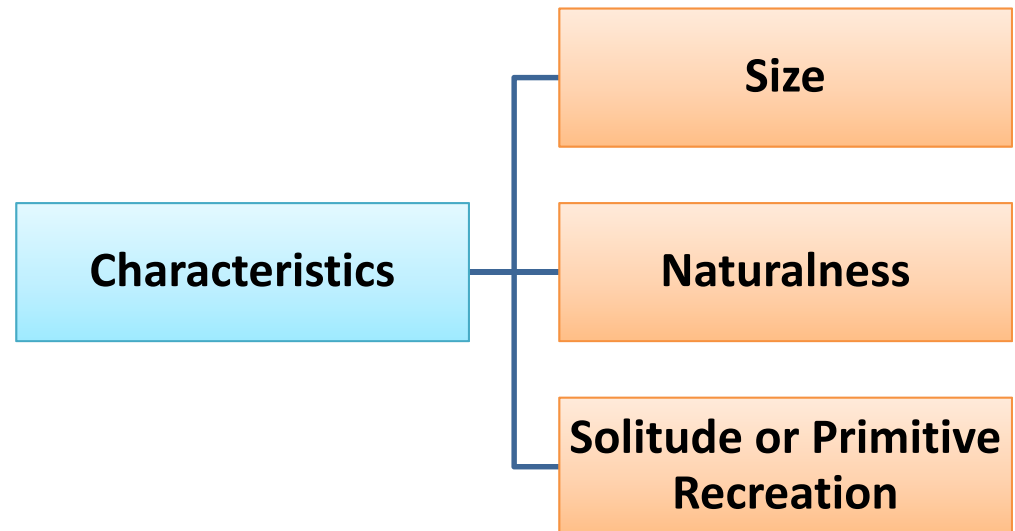
WILDERNESS TOPICS



What are Wilderness Characteristics

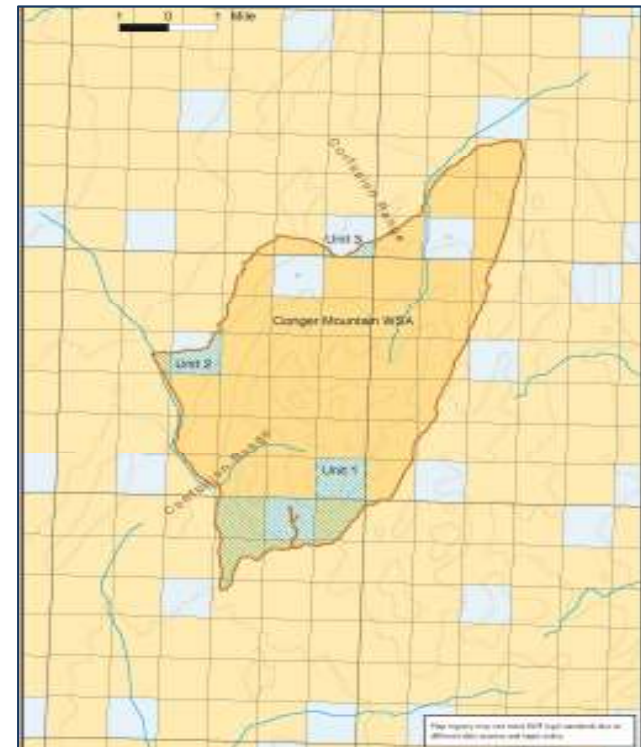
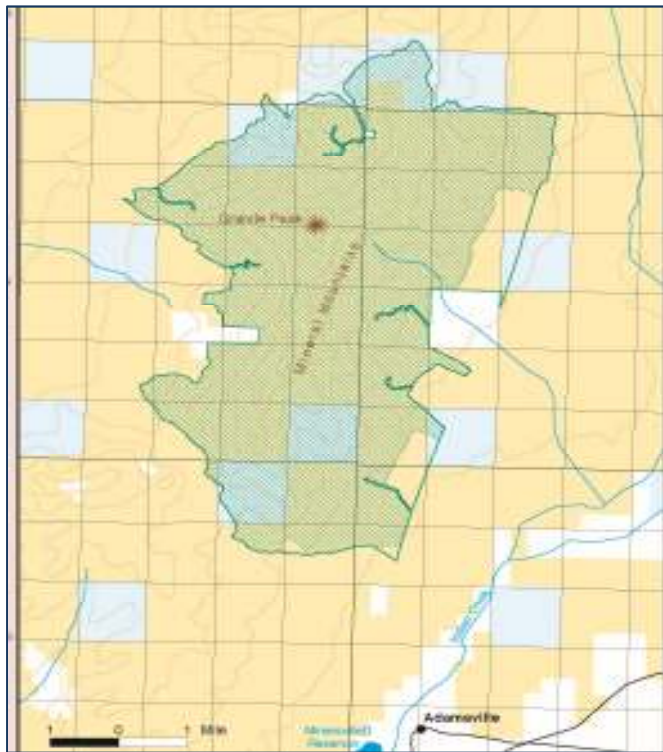
Characteristics are derived from the Wilderness Act of 1964.

“...as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain. An area of wilderness is further defined to mean in this Act an area of undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions and which generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable; “



Size

- 5,000 acres or larger
- Contiguous with existing Wilderness / WSA



At least 5,000 acres of land as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition. ***Wilderness Act 1964***

Naturalness



Where the landscape generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. *Wilderness Act 1964*

Solitude



Rainbow Mountain Wilderness



Sandia Mountains Wilderness

Primitive Unconfined Recreation

Examples

Hunting



Camping - Hiking



Wilderness & Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Management

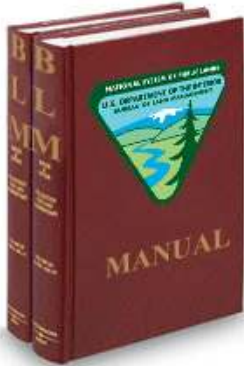
Wilderness & WSA

- **Designated wilderness** is managed to “**preserve**” the characteristics.
- **WSAs** are managed to maintain “**non-impairment**” of the characteristics.
- Designation is dependent upon Congressional action.

Lands with Wilderness Character

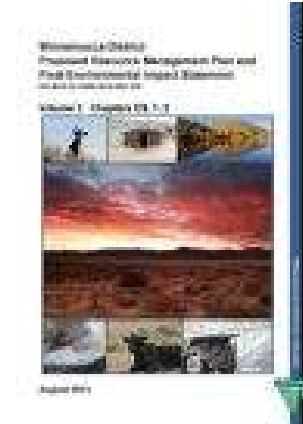
- Management is to retain the character of the landscape.
- Management decisions are based upon the decisions established in the RMP.
- Decisions to manage characteristics are subject to RMP amendments or revision.

Wilderness & WSA



- Manual 6330
- Manual 6340

Lands with wilderness characteristics



Resource Management Plan

Motorized & Mechanized Use



- Closed – Wilderness
- Limited - WSA



Closed – Limited or Designated per RMP Management decisions

Fluid Mineral Leasing



Closed to leasing – by law Federal Onshore Oil & Gas Leasing Reform Act - 1987

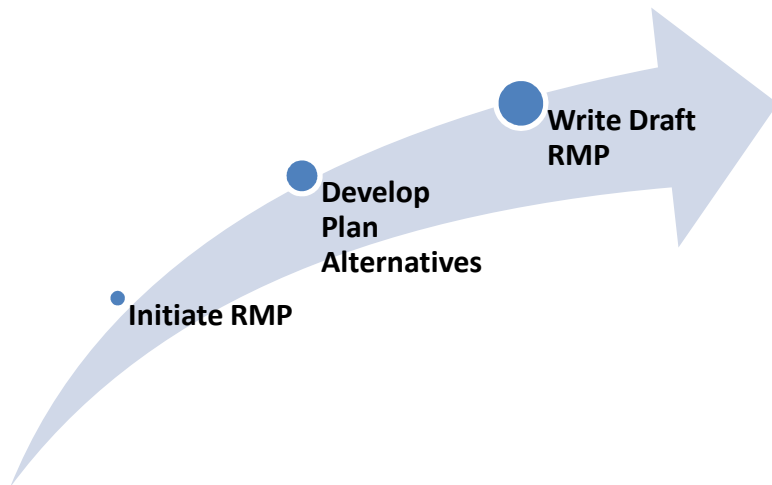


RMP decisions – Closed or NSO

WILDERNESS TOPICS

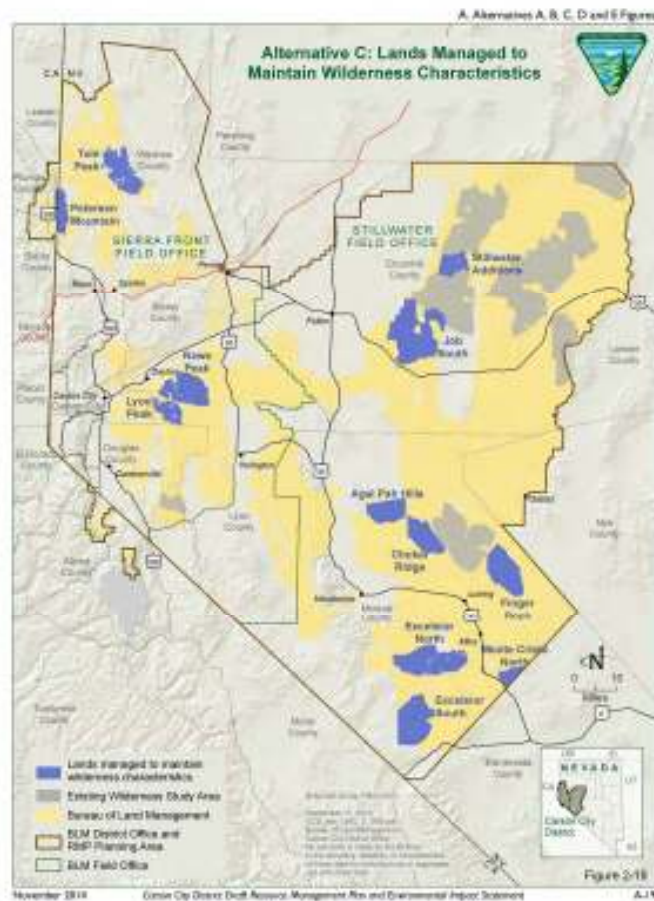


Development of the Resource Management Plan

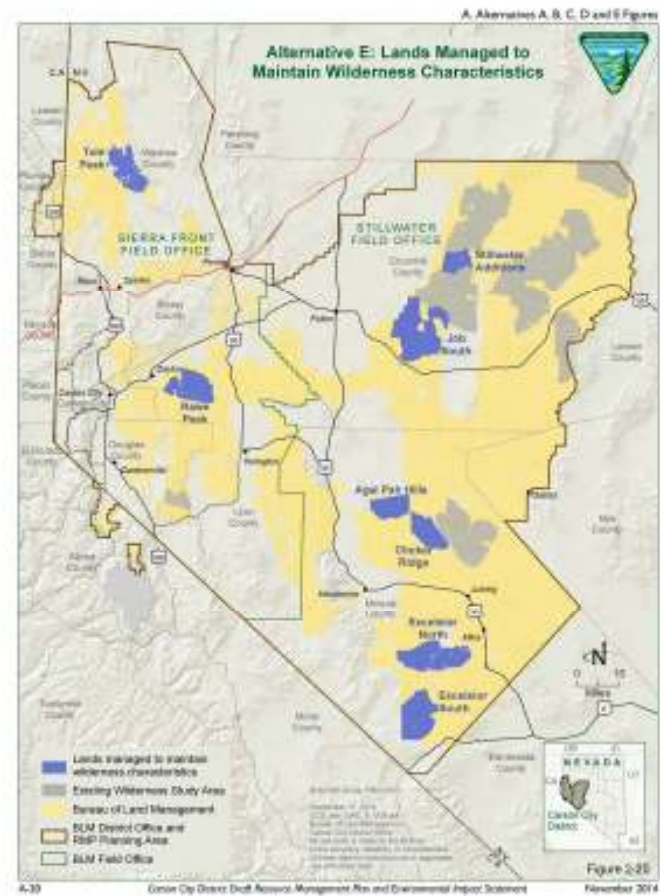


Wilderness Characteristics Lands in Carson City RMP

Alternative C



Alternative E



Public Meetings and comment period



- Lands with wilderness character are identified in the RMP for potential management.
- The lands are considered another resource comparable with other resources like range, wildlife etc.
- Management can change by amendment or revision – similar to ACECs

THIS CONCLUDES OUR
BRIEF REVIEW OF
Lands with
wilderness characteristics
ANY QUESTIONS??

